



U . S . S E N A T O R

GORDON SMITH



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Dear Friends:

We are now in the final months of the 108th Congress, and I am happy to report that it has been a very productive time for addressing important issues ranging from the economy to health care to national security. I strongly supported an economic growth package that benefits all Americans and is helping to create jobs in Oregon. Still, there is much work to be done, and I am committed to doing it.

We also passed the most significant health care legislation since the creation of Medicare. The Prescription Drug and Medicare Improvements Act provides seniors with significant financial help in buying the medicine they need. Recently, I also introduced legislation to allow the safe importation of prescription drugs from Canada and as many as 15 Western European countries.

In the upcoming months, I will be working hard to address issues important to Oregon and to the nation. I hope that this newsletter provides you with a quick update on federal issues affecting you and your families. As always, please feel free to contact me with your questions, concerns, and suggestions.

Warm regards,

Getting Oregon's Economy Back on Track

My top priority is restoring Oregon's economy to full strength. Over the past few months, more and more jobs are being created, but our unemployment rate is still too high. I have been working to bring federal funds home for critical infrastructure projects, health care programs, and schools. At the same time, I am pushing legislation that would help keep our energy supply reliable and affordable. And to help those who have had difficulty finding work, I have continually supported extending unemployment benefits.



*Senator Smith Meets with
an Oregon Small Business Owner*

Getting our economy moving again requires a strong pro-growth agenda. Last year's tax relief package went a long way to helping Oregon's businesses create jobs and it directly benefited more than 1.5 million Oregonians. The bill also helped families in various ways:

- 900,000 Oregonians benefit from the elimination of the marriage penalty
- Over 308,000 Oregon taxpayers gain from the \$1000 child tax credit
- More than 1 million Oregon taxpayers benefit from expanded 10% tax bracket and from accelerated marginal rate reductions

In the upcoming months Congress is also expected to finish work on the Jumpstart Our Business Strength Act (S. 1637). I was able to add a provision to that legislation that is expected dramatically increase job growth in Oregon and throughout the United States. With a short-term change in the tax code, this provision will encourage multi-national businesses to invest foreign-earned profits domestically. It is estimated that it will bring up to \$400 billion into the economy, while reducing the deficit and creating over 650,000 new jobs.

I am committed to pursuing bipartisan initiatives like these until Oregon's economy is back on track and people are back to work.

The Increasing Importance of Alternative and Renewable Energy

Our demand for energy is growing by the day. And as our economy struggles, families and businesses need a reliable source of affordable energy. We have to ensure not only that we are generating enough from traditional sources, but that we're also looking for new environmentally friendly ways to provide for our ever-increasing needs. I have been working to pass legislation to increase our energy independence, promote the development of alternative energy, and encouraging energy efficiency. This includes:

- The **Energy Tax Incentives Act** provides \$15 billion in incentives to increase the use of renewable fuel sources. It includes an extension of the wind energy tax credit, an expansion of the definition of renewables, and tax incentives for the production of advanced technology vehicles. The Senate passed this legislation as part of the JOBS Act (S. 1637), and I am hopeful that it will become law in the upcoming months.
- The **Renewable Energy Incentives Act** expands current incentives to produce renewable energy to include energy sources such as geothermal, solar, open-loop biomass, and incremental hydropower
- The **Clean Efficient Automobiles Resulting from Advanced Car Technologies (CLEAR) Act** would provide significant tax credits directly to consumers who purchase motor vehicles employing the latest in environmentally friendly fuels

Renewable and alternative energies are the future and we need to do everything we can to promote their growth. Doing so will not only protect the environment and spur the economy, but it will also improve our national security by making us less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

The Fight Against Cancer

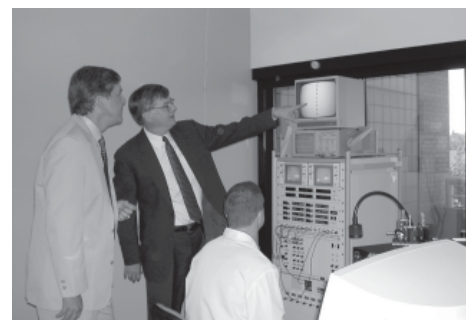
There are few public health threats in our country with more widespread and devastating effects than cancer. It is the number two killer in our state and over 7,000 Oregonians of all ages and backgrounds die from cancer annually. Too many of those victims simply did not have the resources and support they so desperately needed. Because health care professionals and their patients need help, I am engaged in the battle against this dreaded disease.

With Senator Dianne Feinstein, I introduced the National Cancer Act, a bill that represents a comprehensive national plan to win the war on cancer. It provides over \$13 billion to address funding needs related to cancer research, access to care, quality of care and prevention. The Act includes an additional \$100 million per year for research and development of

new anti-cancer drugs, it funds innovative new state cancer plans, and provides \$100 million annually to train cancer specialists who are committed to treat sufferers in underserved communities.

I have also worked to improve treatment for breast cancer, which is the most common form of cancer diagnosed in Oregon. I pushed legislation that gives states the ability to provide treatment to low-income women diagnosed with breast cancer. As a result of these efforts, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services approved Oregon's request to extend these benefits to cancer victims. I also worked to pass legislation that would require coverage for reconstructive surgery following mastectomies and coverage for secondary consultations.

Beating cancer is a long and difficult fight. In the meantime, we can increase resources for health care professionals while improving the lives of cancer victims and their families. With a comprehensive approach like the National Cancer Act, I am confident that we can make this disease both less deadly and less feared.



*Doctors and Technicians from
Providence Hospital
Describe Advances in Health Care*

Making the American Dream a Reality for Oregonians

Buying a home is part of the American Dream and it is one of the smartest financial decisions a person can make, but more than that, it is an investment in one's life. The rewards of home ownership are countless, not only to the home buyer, but also to the community in which they put down roots and have a long term stake in its future. Unfortunately, the challenges associated with the daunting process of purchasing a home can overshadow the excitement and joy of realizing the American Dream.

In the U.S. Senate, I have introduced four bills that would directly address many of the obstacles people face in finding, purchasing, and affording a home:

- The First-Time Homebuyers' Tax Credit Act would provide a tax credit of \$3,000 for individuals and \$6,000 for couples to help pay for a first-time home purchase.
- The Mortgage Insurance Fairness Act would make mortgage insurance tax deductible. This legislation would immediately benefit over 137,000 Oregon home owners and is expected to increase the number of home owners in America by 300,000 per year.
- The New Homestead Economic Opportunity Act would create an expanded tax credit available to home developers who build in low-income areas and sell to low-income individuals and families. This measure will help reinvigorate communities but making homeownership a possibility for more families.
- The Zero Down Payment Act will allow Federal Housing Administration (FHS) homebuyers to purchase homes with no down payment.

Each of these bills enjoys strong bipartisan support, and passing them would help thousands of Oregonians improve their lives and the communities they live in.



Senator Smith, Treasury Secretary O'Neill, and housing advocates discuss expanding homeownership.

Making Prescription Drugs Affordable for Seniors

For too long, seniors have been forced to shoulder the burden of skyrocketing prescription drug costs with very little assistance. To address this growing problem, I strongly supported the most significant health care legislation since the creation of Medicare.

The Prescription Drug and Medicare Improvements Act created a new prescription drug benefit requiring a modest deductible, which provides substantial financial assistance to seniors, while covering catastrophic expenses of Medicare enrollees. This new program will go a long way toward ensuring that no senior will ever again have to choose between buying food and buying medicine.

Recently, I also introduced the Safe Importing of Medical Products and Rx Therapies (Safe IMPORT) Act to allow the safe importation of prescription drugs from Canada and as many as 15 Western European countries. If enacted, this bill will immediately allow individuals to personally bring home pharmaceuticals from Canada. Within one year, pharmacies and wholesalers could import drugs and internet pharmacies would receive the same access shortly thereafter. Eventually, the legislation could allow imports from most European countries, and will help ease the burden of paying for vital prescription drugs for all Americans.

How To Contact Senator Smith:

I always look forward to hearing from Oregonians whether they want to share their thoughts about a particular issue or if they just need help navigating the sometimes daunting federal bureaucracy. Please feel free to contact me by phone, mail, or email, whichever is most convenient for you.

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